

Message Text

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ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03
NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-15 SAJ-01
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-----271028Z 129203 /13

P R 271018Z DEC 76
FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 4411
INFO AMEMBASSY SEOUL
AMEMBASSY TAIPEI
AMCONSUL HONG KONG
USLO PEKING
CINCPAC HONOLULU HI
COMUSJAPAN YOKOTA

UNCLAS TOKYO 18858

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PINT, PFOR, JA
SUBJECT: FUKUDA ELECTED PRIMIN; PRESS CONFERENCE

REF: TOKYO 18808

SUMMARY. TAKEO FUKUDA WAS FORMALLY ELECTED PRIME
MINISTER BY DIET AND ATTESTED BY EMPEROR ON DECEMBER
24, HE APPOINTED NEW CABINET IMMEDIATELY THE
EAFTER. IN
MAIDEN PRESS CONFERENCE DECEMBER 25, FUKUDA EMPHASIZED
ECONOMIC RECOVERY, EARLY MEETING OF ADVANCED NATIONS'
LEADERS AND BILATERAL US-JAPAN SUMMIT. HE PROMISED
THOROUGH LOCKHEED INVESTIGATION. EXTRAORDINARY DIET,
FORMALLY OPENED DECEMBER 27, WILL ADJOURN DECEMBER 28.
REGULAR DIET WILL CONVENE DECEMBER 30 AND ADJOURN UNTIL
LATTER HALF OF JANUARY. END SUMMARY.
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1. FOR THE RECORD, TAKEO FUKUDA WAS ELECTED PRIMIN
DECEMBER 24. WHILE HE RECEIVED MAJORITY OF ONLY
ONE VOTE EACH IN BOTH UPPER A D LOWER HOUSE, THIS LESS
SERIOUS THAN IT SOUNDS BECAUSE NON-FUKUDA VOTE WAS SPLIT
AHONG OPPOSITION PARTY LEADERS AND FUKUDA WOULD HAVE WON

HANDILY ON SECOND BALLOT. NONETHELESS, IT UNDERScores THIN LDP MAJORITIES IN BOTH HOUSES AND NEED TO MAINTAIN STRICT PARTY DISCIPLINE. CABINET APPOINTED AND ATTESTED BY EMPEROR CHRISTMAS EVE.

2. IN HIS FIRST PRESS CONFERENCE AS PRIMIN DECEMBER 25, FUKUDA SAID THAT HIGHEST PRIORITY MUST BE GIVEN TO STATE OF ECONOMY. FOR THAT REASON HE HAD SELECTED PERSONS FOR KEY ECONOMIC MINISTRIES WHO WERE IN BASIC SYMPATHY WITH HIS APPROACH. ALTHOUGH HE DID NOT OUTLINE SPECIFIC PROPOSALS FOR PROMOTING ECONOMIC RECOVERY, HE SUGGESTED THAT INCREASED PUBLIC WORKSHEXPENDITURES WOULD BE PREFERABLE TO INCOME TAX CUTS. HOWEVER, HE HELD OUT POSSIBILITY OF INCOME TAX CUTS TO COMPENSATE FOR INFLATION.

3. STRESSING DESIRABILITY OF STABLE WORLD ECONOMY,

FUKUDA NOTED THAT COOPERATION BETWEEN JAPAN. US AND EUROPE WAS ESSENTIAL. HE SAID THAT ADVANCED NATIONS' SUMMIT CONFERENCE SHOULD BE CONVENED SOON TO UNIFY THINKING ON THESE PROBLEMS. HE ADDED, HOWEVER, THAT US-JAPAN SUMMIT SHOULD PRECEDE THE CONVENING OF AN ADVANCED NATIONS' CONFERENCE. FUKUDA SAID HE WAS NOT THINKING OF PRESSING FOR AN ADVANCED NATIONS' SUMMIT IN TOKYO, BUT THAT IF ALL AGREED ON TOKYO, HE WOULD BE HAPPY TO HOST IT.

4. FUKUDA PROMISED THOROUGH INVESTIGATION OF LOCKHEED SCANDAL AND REPORT TO PEOPLE.

5. EXTRAORDINARY DIET SESSION, FORMALLY OPENED BY
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EMPEROR DECEMBER 27, WILL ADJOURN DECEMBER 28 AFTER ROUTINE VICE MINISTERIAL AND COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN APPOINTMENTS. REGULAR DIET SESSION WILL OPEN DECEMBER 30 AND BE IMMEDIATELY ADJOURNED UNTIL LATTER PART OF JANUARY. SHOESMITH

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